

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-11 and added new claims 12-22. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Examiner's Rejection of Claims 1-11 Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 USC §102 and §103. The Examiner states:

3. Claims 1-8, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nicholls et al., (Nicholls) U.S. Patent No. 6,363,414.

4. As to claim 1, Nicholls teaches a method for communicating an online message to a recipient comprising the steps of:

receiving an online communication at an online address corresponding to said recipient (col. 5, line 52 - col. 6, line 16, the user receives an e-mail at his/her e-mail address);

determining an off-line delivery destination corresponding to said online address (col. 8, lines 11-26, if priority has been set for fax, page or telephony then e-mail is forward based on stored delivery destination);

converting said online communication to an appropriate format for off-line delivery (col. 3, lines 37-65, e-mail is converted to fax, pager or telephony format);

delivering said converted online communication to said off-line delivery destination (see Fig. 2a, col. 4, lines 26-40).

5. As to claim 2, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining an off-line delivery destination comprises the step of receiving said off-line delivery destination from a database (col. 3, line 45-50, col. 3, lines 60-65 and col. 4, lines 5-11).

6. As to claim 3, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said off-line delivery destination comprises a facsimile machine (col. 3, lines 45-50).

7. As to claim 4, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said off-line delivery system comprises a telephone system (col. 4, lines 5-11).
8. As to claim 5, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 3 wherein said step of converting said online communication comprises converting said online communication into a facsimile format (col. 3, lines 37-50).
9. As to claim 6, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 4 wherein said step of converting said online communication comprises converting said online communication into an audio format (col. 3, line 65 - col. 4, line 11).
10. As to claim 7, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said online communication comprises an electronic mail message (see abstract).
11. As to claim 8, Nicholls teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said online address comprises an electronic mail address (see abstract).

* * *

13. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholls et al., (Nicholls) U.S. Patent No. 6,363,414 and in view of Kohler U.S. Patent No. 6,192,396.
14. Nicholls teaches the claimed invention as described above. Nicholls does not explicitly teach grouping of recipients and associating the recipients with a professional group.

Kohler teaches the present invention relates to an authoring system for computerized messages such as electronic mail, and specifically to an authoring system for computerized messages that can create messages containing recipient-specific content among a group of recipients such that all recipients do not receive the identical version of the message. Kohler teaches being able to send a message to the whole group and also recipient-specific messages intended to be seen only by a specific recipient.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teaching of Kohler into the invention of Nicholls in order to increase the efficiency and reduce the transmission time. Senders are able to transmit a message to a group of recipients, without having to continuously add each recipients name to the TO field.

Applicant has cancelled pending claims 1-11 and added new claims 12-22. No new matter has been added. New claims 12-22 claim a method for providing an online presence for a

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first member of a group of members that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art, including Nicholls and Kohler. Applicant believes that new claims 12-22 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that they be allowed.

Correction of Correspondence Address

Receipt of the Examiner's December 27, 2005 office action was delayed due to an incorrect address used by the Patent and Trademark Office. The correct correspondence address is as follows:

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Applicant is submitting a request for change of correspondence address herewith to reflect the correct address.

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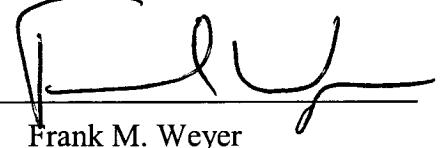
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicant believes that claims 12-22 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that they be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,

TECHCOASTLAW

By:



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Reg. No. 33,050

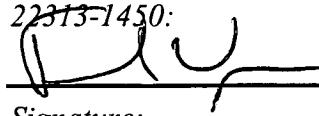
Date: 25 April 2006

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